

broken out, but it was promptly repressed. Two Dutch soldiers were shot for striking their officers, but notwithstanding this severity desertion among the troops increased to an alarming degree. Indefatigable agents in the pay of the English Government labored incessantly to seduce the soldiers of King Louis (of Holland) from their duty. Some of these agents being denounced to me were taken almost in the act, and positive proof being adduced of their guilt they were condemned to death.

These indispensable examples of severity did not check the manoeuvres of England, though they served to cool the zeal of her agents. I used every endeavor to second the Prince of Pontecorvo in tracing out the persons employed by England. It was chiefly from the small island of Heligoland that they found their way to the Continent. This communication was facilitated by the numerous vessels scattered about the small islands which lie along that coast. Five or six pieces of gold defrayed the expense of the passage, to or from Heligoland. Thus the Spanish news, which was printed and often fabricated at London, was profusely circulated in the north of Germany. Packets of papers addressed to merchants and well-known persons in the German towns were put into the post-offices of Kmbden, Knipphausen, Yarel, Oldenburg, Immenhorst, and Bremen. Generally speaking, this part of the coast was not sufficiently well watched to prevent espionage and smuggling; with regard to smuggling, indeed, no power could have entirely prevented it. The Continental system had made it a necessity, so that a great part of the population depended on it for subsistence.

In the beginning of December, 180X, we remarked that the Russian courier, who passed through Konigsherg and Berlin, was regularly detained four, five, and even six hours on his way to Hamburg. The trading portion of the population* always suspicious, became alarmed at this change in the courier's hours, into which they inquired and soon discovered the cause. It was ascertained that two agents had been stationed, by the postmaster of the Grain! Durhy of Berg at Hamburg, in a village called Ksr.hburg belonging to the